Dental care facilities in rural areas

1541. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who are approximately without any dental care in the rural areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that rural population does not have any facilities for dental care; and

(c) how Government propose to ensure that more dentists are available in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) No such study has been conducted.

(b) and (c) Medical services in rural areas are provided by the State Governments through Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres.

Non-availability of Anti-plague vaccines during plague epidemic

1542. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether anti-plague vaccine were not available at health centres during the outbreak of the epidemic;

(b) whether the National Institute of Communicable Diseases had not taken effective action in the plague-affected areas to combat the epidemic;

(c) whether Government had urged Russian and American Governments to rush anti-plague vaccines; and

(d) if so, their response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SIVERA): (a) The anti-plague vaccines were made available for the health personnel needing protection.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) 10 (ten) empules of live attenuated vaccine were imported from Russia but has been retained only for experimental research. No vaccine was available from U.S.A.

Modern hospitals in the country

1543. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ICMR has come out with a proposal to make available hospital care and facilities in all blocks in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what steps Government propose to take to make available a modern hospital in every block in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise.

Draft rule for toothpaste

1544. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently notified a draft rule under which toothpaste containing Fluorides must contain a warning, that children below seven years should not use it; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The intention of the new clause of caution is to prohibit use of flourinated tooth pastes by children below 7 years of age. This is a matter of abundant precaution as the bones of young children are under active development.